

**Lieutenant Governor
Katherine L. Davis, Director**
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ONE NORTH CAPITOL, SUITE 700
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204
TEL 317 232 8800
Fax 317 232 5123
www.indianacommerce.com

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Media Contact: Greg Chandler, 317.232.8873

Davis Announces \$200,000 Grant in Support of Caterpillar Expansion Project

LAFAYETTE— Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis today announced a \$200,000 Skills Enhancement Fund grant for Caterpillar Lafayette Engine Center in support of the company's \$22 million investment in its Lafayette facility.

A leading supplier of engines and power systems, Caterpillar will be investing in equipment upgrades and a new manufacturing line at its existing facility on State Road 26. The grant money, which is being awarded by the Indiana Department of Commerce, will help the company train 635 existing employees in computer skills, blueprint reading, assembly operation and Six Sigma.

"Caterpillar is one of Indiana's strongest manufacturing operations and we are pleased to once again partner with them as they invest in the city of Lafayette and the state of Indiana," said Davis, who leads the state's economic development efforts as director of the Department of Commerce. "Our top priority is to foster economic development and create jobs, and we will continue to look for opportunities to help companies like Caterpillar grow and invest in our state."

Founded in 1982, Caterpillar has grown into a worldwide producer of engines and power systems. The company presently employs more than 1,270 people at its Lafayette facility and maintains average annual sales of more than \$563 million.

The Department of Commerce awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project.

So far this year, Commerce grants have helped support the creation of more than 6,300 jobs, leveraging more than \$791 million in private investments.

Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund or other Commerce programs should contact their regional Commerce office at 800.463.8081 or access its Web site at www.indianacommerce.com.

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